

Appln No. 09/592,009

Amdt date May 9, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated February 9, 2005, the Examiner objected to the Specification, rejected claims 1, 7, 9 and 12 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, rejected claims 1 and 3 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the Abstract, the Specification and claims 1, 3 - 6, 9 and 12 - 14. Reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested for claims 1 - 14 that are pending in this application.

Response to the Objection to the Specification

Applicant has amended the Abstract to combine the two paragraphs and reduce the word count to below 150 words. Accordingly, the Abstract now consists of one paragraph. A replacement sheet for the Abstract is enclosed.

Applicant has amended the Specification to recite the U.S. Patent numbers of the three previously cited applications that remain incorporated by reference. Applicant has canceled the incorporation by reference of the fourth application.

In addition Applicant has corrected several typographical errors in the Specification. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Response to the § 112 Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 9 and 12 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Regarding the rejection of claim 1, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "receiving, by the peripheral system," and "setting the context index to the second index value to perform a context switch." Regarding the Examiner's statement as to what/who performs "accessing," Applicant notes that "accessing" may not be limited to a specific entity. For example and without limitation the host computer 970 may read data from a register (e.g., register 44a in Figure 7) and a register may be read by the control portion 944 and the address portion 942 in the state machine 940. See, for example, Figure 7 and the Specification at page 21, lines 3 - 13 and page 22, line 24 - page 23, line 3.

Regarding the rejections of claims 3 - 6, Applicant has amended these claims to recite "receiving, by the peripheral system."

Regarding the rejections of claims 9 and 12 - 14, Applicant has amended these claims as set forth above.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 7, 9 and 12 - 14 meet the requirements of section 112.

Response to the § 102 Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Born et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,247,040 (hereafter referred to as "Born"). Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims. Claims 2 - 7 depend on claim 1. Claims 9 - 14 depend on claim 8.

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Independent claims 1 and 8 are not anticipated by Born because Born does not teach all of the limitations of either of claim 1 or claim 8.

Claim 1 recites, in part: "accessing context data in a first register of a peripheral system when a context index is set to a first index value" and "accessing context data in a second register of the peripheral system when the context index is set to the second index value." Thus, the system may easily transition between contexts by changing the context index.

In contrast, Born teaches a much more complicated procedure where the contents of active register set 214, 216, 218 and inactive register set 204, 206, 208 are swapped. Born does not teach or suggest the use of a context index as claimed. See, for example, Figure 2 and column 10, lines 16 - 28.

Claim 8 recites, in part: "the register access circuit being configured to access the first register if the first index value is provided by the host computer, the register access circuit being further configured to access the second register if the second index value is provided by the host computer." Thus, the register that is accessed (e.g., the first or second register) depends on whether the first or second index value is provided by the host computer.

Born does not teach or suggest that the register to be accessed depends on which index value has been received.

In view of the above, Applicant submits claims 1 and 8 and claims 2 - 7 and 9 - 14 that depend on claims 1 and 8, respectively, are not anticipated by Born.

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Response to the § 103 Rejection of Claim 2

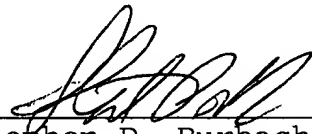
The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Born, in view of admitted prior art. Claim 2 depends on independent claim 1.

Independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited art because these references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above in conjunction with the rejection under section 102. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 2 that depends on claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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